

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/619,032

Examiner

Delia M. Ramirez

Applicant(s)

MURPHY ET AL.

Art Unit

1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/24/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-13,15,16,26,28-31 and 33-38.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

Claims 1, 4-13, 15, 16, 26, 28-31 and 33-38 are pending.

Amendment of claims 1, 4-5, 15, 28-31, 33, cancellation of claims 2-3, 14, 17-25, 27, 32, and addition of claims 34-38 in a communication filed on 1/24/2005 is acknowledged,

In a telephone conversation with Gregory Einhorn on 3/7/2005, an agreement was reached to amend claims xx to place the application in condition for allowance.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An informal Examiner's amendment to the specification appears below. This amendment is to add a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence of the specification (37 CFR 1.78).

2. Please enter the following amendments to the specification as follows:

3. In page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following sentence:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/407,806 filed on 09/28/1999, which is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 08/613,220 filed on 03/08/1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,958,751.

4. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

5. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory Einhorn on 3/7/2005.

6. Please replace claims 16, 31, 33 and 34 as follows:

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide has at least 97% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO: 4.

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31. The method of claim 29, wherein the polysaccharide or oligosaccharide is raffinose, stachyose, verbascose, or a combination thereof.

33. A method for hydrolyzing α -glycosidic bonds in a compound comprising raffinose, stachyose, or verbascose comprising contacting the compound with an effective amount of a polypeptide having: an amino acid sequence having at least a 95% amino acid identity to an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4; an amino acid sequence having at least a 95% amino acid identity to an amino acid sequence as set forth in amino acids 1 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 4; a sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4; or enzymatically active fragments thereof, wherein the polypeptide has α -galactosidase activity.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has at least 97% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Reasons for Allowance

7. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. Although the prior art discloses hydrolysis of α -glycosidic bonds with α -galactosidases, the Examiner has found no teaching or suggestion in the prior art directed to a method for hydrolyzing α -glycosidic bonds with the α -galactosidase of SEQ ID NO: 4, or variants thereof as recited in the claims. Therefore, claims 1, 4-13, 15, 16, 26, 28-31 and 33-38 directed to a method for hydrolyzing α -glycosidic bonds with the α -galactosidase of SEQ ID NO: 4, or α -galactosidases having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 4, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

8. Claims 1, 4-13, 15, 16, 26, 28-31 and 33-38 are allowed.

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9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Delia M. Ramirez whose telephone number is (571) 272-0938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Ponnathapura Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272-0928. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Delia M. Ramirez, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1652

DR
March 8, 2005


REBECCA E. PROUTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800
1600